INTRODUCTORY

THE occasion which furnished the appropriateness for this kind of a publication was not only devoid of mirth, but sufficiently sad to create heart-aches and produce tears without drawing upon the imaginations of a generous public.

The artist, with his camera, has portrayed, without embellishment of pencil or brush, the story of destruction, devastation and despair in such an effective manner that any elaboration at the hands of the editor is entirely unnecessary.

The editor and publisher of this booklet, together with his family, are among the unfortunates, and their loss would have been greater had they had anything more to lose.

It is hoped that the returns from this little booklet will enable the publisher to purchase a cooking stove, flat irons, wash tubs and other ornamental necessities necessary to a family who have never learned to keep house without articles of this kind. Should the sales be sufficiently numerous a new printing outfit might be purchased.

If this conflagration could have been postponed a couple of years the anniversary of our silver wedding would have arrived, and the publisher's wife might have sent out invitations to people at a distance—such a distance that it would not have been practical to come. Our "Uncle" would have kindly loaned us on the silverware a sufficient amount of currency to have put us in motion once more. The fire, however, was inconsiderate, and our only hope is in this little booklet.

There will be no objection to purchasers buying more than one copy.

Should any charitable person feel disposed to pay $50.00 or more for a single copy, a check for the amount will not be looked upon as an insult.

THE EDITOR.